

Appl. No. 10/724,822  
Amendment dated: May 12, 2005  
Reply to OA of: April 21, 2005

**REMARKS**

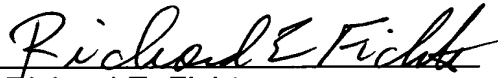
This is in response to the Official Action of April 21, 2005, in connection with the above identified application.

The Official Action is a restriction requirement in which it is urged that there are two separate and distinct inventions claimed in this application. Applicants elect the Group I invention which includes claims 1-23, without traverse. Applicants have canceled the subject matter of claims 24-35 as being directed to the non-elected invention. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications on the non-elected inventions at a later time.

In view of the election of the Group I invention, without traverse, an early and favorable action on the merits is now believed to be in order and is most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

By:   
Richard E. Fichter  
Registration No. 26,382

625 Slaters Lane, 4<sup>th</sup> Fl.  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
Phone: (703) 683-0500  
Facsimile: (703) 683-1080

REF:kdd  
A01.wpd

May 12, 2005